

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY/TOWN OF GOSHEN WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 9

1500 Hours June 27, 2007

New information is in bold italics.

Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours daily

SUMMARY

The Town of Goshen water system was shut down on 14 June due to a leak that occurred on 13 June. A local emergency was declared at 1100 hours, 14 June. Actions are being coordinated to identify leaks in the system and alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Recovery Operations and augmented with limited staff.

State of Emergency: Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency on June 20, 2007 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, directing state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response and recovery from a water outage in the Town of Goshen in Rockbridge County.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Rockbridge County declared a local emergency on 14 June 2007.

ESF 15 – External Affairs: VDEM and VDH Public Affairs are coordinating public affairs support to Rockbridge County and the Town of Goshen. Public Affairs staff responding to media inquiries and coordinating release of public awareness information.

WEATHER FORECAST

Rockbridge County: Wednesday, June 27 – Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorm possible. High temperature of 89 degrees. West Southwest winds at 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday Evening** - 40% chance of thunderstorms. Low of 69 degrees. Southwest winds at 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday, June 28** – Partly cloudy in the morning with the chance of thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. Gusty winds and small hail are possible. High of 88 degrees. Southwest winds at 5 to 10 mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Producing and distributing State Situation Report. ***As of 27 June State Situation Reports will be produced and distributed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Collecting preliminary cost estimates from state agencies and localities.***

Local Liaison: ***VDEM Local Support Services Region Three Coordinator returned 26 June.*** VDEM local planning staff will be on scene to assist local Emergency Management officials until ***1500 hours 27 June.***

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: VA Department of Health (VDH)

Boil Water Advisory remains in effect until further notice. VDH Office of Drinking Water staff continue to monitor the operational status of the Town's water system. ***Chlorine levels in the Town's water system have stabilized and ODW staff began taking water samples for bacteriological testing yesterday afternoon, 26 June. Additional samples will be taken 27 and 28 June.*** ODW and VDEM staffs continue to emphasize the fragile nature of the Town's water system and that gains made in the past several days could be lost suddenly. Due to the tenuous condition of the system, the boil water advisory could continue for the next 7-14 days.

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VDH is in contact with three area hospitals in order to detect and investigate any disease outbreak related to potential water contamination. Ready to feed baby formula is being made available for all infants who are part of the Women, Infants and Children Program in the Goshen area affected by the water shortage by Central Shenandoah Health District. VDH Office of Drinking Water is working with VA Department of Housing and Community Development, USDA Rural Development, and VDEM to identify funding options to replace lines rather than continual repair. ***VDH Public Information Officer will remain on scene until 1200 hours 28 June.***

ESF 16 – Military Support: VA National Guard (VNG)

All VNG personnel and resources are off State Active Duty as of 1700 hours 26 June.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: American Red Cross

The Red Cross completed feeding response and repair workers while assisting with water and information distribution and demobilized on 25 June.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: VA Department of Emergency Management

Rockbridge County Emergency Management requested additional communications support from the State. An additional 10 land lines, fax capability are operational. Seventeen requests for assistance have been received; sixteen have been completed, and one has been cancelled.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The Town of Goshen's water system is continuing to maintain pressure and is being refilled through the Town's pump system. An Information & Assistance Center has been established for Goshen residents, at 540-997-7267 or 540-997-7268. Plans are to operate the system on a near normal basis for all residents, to allow for bathing and flushing. Fourteen leaks have been identified and repaired and currently there are no leaks detected. Even though water may begin to appear in the Town system, a voluntary conservation request has been issued. Conserving water will enable operators to more accurately locate leaks, and to more quickly restore the system to normal operation. Water distribution is available at Town Hall and water is being delivered to residents who are incapacitated or unable to drive. A staging area located at Routes 39 and 42 has been set up to distribute non-potable water. To ensure adequate fire protection is in place, fire departments in adjacent communities have been placed on stand-by and a burn ban remains in effect for the Town of Goshen.

State and Federal agencies met with the Goshen Town Council on Tuesday, 26 June to explain funding programs that might be available to assist with the replacement of the aging water system. State agencies attending included VDEM, VDH, and VHCD. VDH PIO was on scene to assist with media inquiries. A total of 3 media representatives were present at the meeting. Approximately 50 residents of the Town of Goshen were in attendance. The Town Council voted to apply for USDA Rural Development funds that would allow them to seek reimbursement for costs expended on emergency water supplies (i.e. bottled water, etc.).

Target Stores donated approximately 12 pallets of potable water and personal hygiene products. Delivery of these goods is scheduled for Thursday, 28 June. These goods will be delivered and stored at the Virginia Horse Center and distributed as needed. Rockbridge EM will alert media and be available for comments.